

Remarks

Status of the Claims

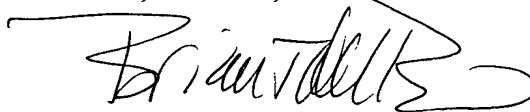
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 54-123 are pending in the application, with claims 54, 68, 78, 92 and 107 being the independent claims. Claims 1-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 54-123 have been added. Support for new claims 54-123 can be found in the original claims and throughout the specification. These amendments introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for immediate examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", written over a horizontal line.

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